

# Workshop 6

## Historical and Cultural Context: Langston Hughes and Christopher Moore

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## Workshop 6 Readings

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### My Beloved

Shall I make a record of your beauty?

Shall I write words about you?

Shall I make a poem that will live a thousand  
years and paint you in the poem?

## Workshop 6 Readings, continued

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### **The Negro Speaks of Rivers**

(To W. E. B. DuBois)

I've known rivers:

I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the  
flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.  
I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.  
I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.  
I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln  
went down to New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy  
bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I've known rivers:

Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

## Workshop 6 Readings, continued

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### Two Things

Two things possess the power,  
Two things deserve the name,  
Two things can reawaken  
Perpetually the flame.  
Two things are full of wonder,  
Two things cast off all shame.  
One is known by the name of Death.  
And the other has no name  
Except the name each gives it—  
In no single mouth the same.